

## **Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan - Youth Development Programme 2019/20**

### **SELECTION POLICY**

#### **Youth Development Programme Mission**

To provide a developmental pathway that supports junior and young riders to make the transition in to international FEI competition and ultimately become successful senior riders who represent Hong Kong on the world stage.

#### **Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan Review**

In April 2019 Equestrian was awarded Tier A status with the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI). Following this, a review of the 2019 Hong Kong Equestrian Performance Plan (HKEPP) was conducted and a number of changes were made to the athlete pathway. The primary change is the creation of three squads; the Children's Squad and the Youth Squad (formerly the Junior Equestrian Training Squad, or JETS) and the Overseas Youth Squad. Further information on each squad is detailed below.

#### **Aim of Selection Policy**

The specific aim of the selection policy is to select athletes on to the 2019-2020 Children's Squad, Youth Squad and Overseas Youth Squad that have the perceived ability to go on and represent Hong Kong in international competitions in the future.

#### **Youth Development Programme Background**

All three squads will run from 1 October 2019 until 31 August 2020.

#### **Children's Squad**

Designed to support children, aged 10 - 14 years, who are showing early talent. The squad is designed to nurture those who show potential for progression to the Youth Squad. Regular coaching in all disciplines, stable management sessions and an annual camp will be offered, plus advice and guidance to parents as well as opportunities to compete.

#### **Youth Squad**

Formerly the Junior Equestrian Training Squad (JETS). Young talented athletes, aged 12 – 25 years (previously 12 – 21) benefit from the Youth Squad; supporting young riders based in Hong Kong with regular coaching, competition mentoring, an annual overseas camp and use of facilities and expertise at HKSI.

#### **Overseas Youth Squad**

An extension of the Youth Squad, designed to support young talented athletes, aged 12 – 25, who would benefit from the Youth Development Programme but who are based overseas. Support offered includes mentoring from the Performance Managers and coaches, competition planning and an annual camp at HKSI.

To enable Hong Kong to develop talent in each of the FEI Olympic disciplines, the 2019-2020 squads will include the disciplines of show jumping, eventing and dressage. Therefore the following places will be available:

**Children's Squad – 12 places, not discipline specific. Athletes will receive training in all three Olympic disciplines.**

**Youth Squad – 12 places; Show Jumping (4), Eventing (4), Dressage (4).**

**Overseas Youth Squad – 5 places; places will be allocated according to demand.**

In the event there are not enough athletes of the required level to fill the above discipline places, they will be distributed to the other disciplines, dependent on demand.

Athletes can apply for more than one discipline, but must submit separate applications, per discipline. Athletes will only be accepted on to one discipline, so if they have a preference, it must be stated on the application.

Athletes on both Youth Squads will focus their training on the discipline that have been selected for, although will have an opportunity to develop their skills in the other disciplines should they wish.

### **Application Process**

Athletes interested in applying for one of the squads will be asked to submit an application form. Athletes are able to supplement the information if they wish.

Athlete application forms must be sent by email to: [natasha.s.rose@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:natasha.s.rose@hkjc.org.hk) or mailed to Ms. Natasha Rose, Equestrian Affairs Department, Hong Kong Jockey Club, 8/F Central Complex, Shatin Racecourse, Shatin, N.T, Hong Kong.

**Applications must be submitted by 17:00 hours (5:00pm) on Wednesday 18 September 2019. Late applications will not be considered.**

### **Eligibility for Selection and Minimum Criteria**

In order to ensure that the Youth Development Programme focusses on nurturing talented athletes who demonstrate an ability to progress on in to FEI International competition, the following minimum criteria are required to be eligible for the squads:

**Children's Squad:** Applicants should have experience of competing in any of the Olympic disciplines and must have been placed in the top one third of a competition.

**Youth Squad:** All applicants must have been placed in the top one third of a competition at the relevant level (see below):

### Show Jumping

Athletes must be achieving recent and consistent results in the following show jumping classes:

12 – 17 years old: results in classes at 1.0m or above and achieving rounds of 4 faults or less in competitions.

18 years and over: results in classes at 1.10m or above and achieving rounds of 4 faults or less in graded competitions.

### Eventing

Athletes must be achieving recent and consistent results in eventing competitions as follows:

12 - 17 years old: completing competitions of 80cm or above achieving *minimum criteria* (as detailed below) in competitions.

18 years old and above: completing competitions of 1.0m or above achieving *minimum criteria* (as detailed below) in graded competitions.

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 50 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less.

### Dressage

Athletes must be achieving recent and consistent results as follows:

12 - 17 years old: achieving a minimum of 63% in graded competitions at Elementary level classes or above.

18 years and over: achieving a minimum of 63% in graded competitions at Medium level classes or above.

### Overseas Results

In all disciplines, results gained from competing overseas will be considered but only when it is achieved in an affiliated / graded competition recognised by the relevant National Federation (NF). Proof of results from the NF must be submitted with the application.

**Overseas Youth Squad**: All applicants must have been placed in the top one third of a graded (affiliated) or international competition at the relevant level (see below):

### Show Jumping

Athletes must be achieving recent and consistent results in the following show jumping classes:

12 – 17 years old: results in classes at 1.20m or above and achieving rounds of 4 faults or less in graded (affiliated) or international competitions.

18 years and over: results in classes at 1.30m or above and achieving rounds of 4 faults or less in graded (affiliated) or international competitions.

## Eventing

Athletes must be achieving recent and consistent results in eventing competitions as follows:

12 - 17 years old: completing competitions of 1.0m or above achieving *minimum criteria* (as detailed below) in affiliated competitions.

18 years old and above: completing FEI CCI1\* competitions and achieving *minimum criteria* (as detailed below).

Minimum Criteria - Dressage – 50 penalties or less, Cross Country - Clear at obstacles and Jumping – 8 penalties or less

## Dressage

Athletes must be achieving recent and consistent results as follows:

12 - 17 years old: achieving a minimum of 63% in graded (affiliated) Medium level classes or above, or FEI International Competitions.

18 years and over: achieving a minimum of 63% in graded (affiliated) Advanced level classes or above, or FEI International Competitions.

*N.B. Ages are as at start of programme – 1 October 2019*

In addition, all athletes are required to meet all of the following criteria:

1. All athletes must either be Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport holders or have an application for naturalization as a Chinese National **approved** by the Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Documentation of approval is required.
2. Athletes must be between the ages of ten (10) and twenty five (25) for the relevant squad at the start of the programme (1 October 2019).
3. Athletes must be a Hong Kong resident for the Children's Squad and the Youth Squad. Athletes must be an overseas resident (i.e. not in Hong Kong) for the Overseas Youth Squad.
4. Athletes must be registered with the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation and eligible to ride for Hong Kong in all competitions.

5. Athletes currently serving a ban from FEI or national competition as a result of an equine or human doping or equine medication violation will not be eligible for selection. Athletes returning from a ban will be considered on a case by case basis.
6. For the Overseas Youth Squad, athletes must continue to have horse power available to them to continue to compete at the level of the relevant qualification results.

### **Selection Procedure**

Selection for all squads on the Youth Development Programme 2019-2020 will be performance based, to be determined by the competition results in the preceding one year, but with emphasis on the most recent results. The athlete's best ten results will be taken in to account. Current form and improving form will also be considered where an athlete is similar in the competition performances to another.

Regular home coaches may be contacted to discuss an Athlete's suitability for the programme. Shortlisted athletes for the Hong Kong based Youth Squad **will be required to attend an interview on either 21 or 22 September 2019.**

There will be no ridden assessment.

### **Selection Timeline**

Applications Open	Wednesday 11 September 2019
Applications Deadline	Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 17:00 hours
Notification of interview (Hong Kong based Youth Squad only)	Friday 20 September 2019
Interviews (Hong Kong based Youth Squad only)	Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September 2019 (times TBC)
Final selection decisions made and athletes informed	Friday 27 September 2019
Programme commences / ends	1 October 2019 / 31 August 2020

### **Selection Panel**

The selection panel will comprise of:

- Amanda Bond - Executive Manager, Equestrian Affairs (EMEA)
- Corinne Bracken – Performance Manager (Jumping)
- Howard Green – HKEF - Training and Selection Sub-Committee (TSSC) Chairman
- Suzanne Baker – HKEF - Training and Selection Sub-Committee (TSSC) Member

Selectors are required to be free from all vested interests / conflicts of interest, in so far as is possible. A register of conflicts of interests will be kept and all selectors will declare any potential or perceived conflicts as soon as they arise.

## **General**

### **Post Selection Response**

All athletes will be informed in writing by Friday 27 September 2019 whether or not they have been successfully accepted on to the programme.

### **Changes in policy**

The EMEA, in consultation with the senior management of the HKJC and HKEF have the right to amend or change this selection policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objectives of the policy, as long as these changes are clearly communicated to all parties, via the HKEF website.

### **Anti-doping and Medication Control**

All athletes must comply with the current Equine and Human Anti-doping rules as per FEI competition, regarding the use of medications and banned substances. For further information or advice visit <https://inside.fei.org/content/anti-doping-rules>

### **Point of Contact**

Enquiries about this selection policy should be made in writing to Amanda Bond, EMEA of the HKJC at [amanda.j.bond@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:amanda.j.bond@hkjc.org.hk).

### **Appeals Process**

Athletes have the right to appeal against the decision of the selectors. Appeals must be made in writing within 48 hours of the announcements. Appeals must be sent to the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation. Appeals will be considered by the HKEF Training and Selection Sub-Committee whose decision will be final.

### **HKJC's Privacy Policy**

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is committed to ensuring the privacy and security of the personal data it holds and will collect and use personal data in accordance with the Club's Privacy Statement, which can be found here: [https://www.hkjc.com/home/english/corporate/corp\\_privacy.aspx](https://www.hkjc.com/home/english/corporate/corp_privacy.aspx)

**Annex A – Youth Development Programme Application Form** – please see separate excel file.

**Annex B – Nationality Requirements for JETS Programme Selection**

To be eligible for consideration for the programme, all athletes must meet the following criteria:

1. All athletes must either be Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport holders or have an application for naturalization as a Chinese National approved by the Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (copies of approval documentation and a receipt detailing the application reference will be required).
2. Furthermore, for athletes that have an application for a Hong Kong passport approved, but not yet claimed, they will be required to commit to renounce any foreign nationality to enable them to claim a Hong Kong Special Administration passport prior to their acceptance on to any long-list for a team representing Hong Kong in competition that requires a HKSAR passport (such as Youth Olympic and National Games and Asian Games).